

## **Vermont's School Improvement Grant Tiered Schools Definition (As Approved by USDOE)**

Vermont determined the “persistently lowest achieving schools” for Tier I by ranking 71 Title I schools in improvement, corrective action or restructuring. This resulted in the identification of five schools as Tier I.

We determined the “persistently lowest achieving schools” for Tier II by ranking the 27 secondary schools eligible for but not receiving Title I funds. In Vermont secondary is defined as any school inclusive of the 9-12 span. This ranking also resulted in five schools being identified as Tier II schools.

No secondary school in Vermont has a cohort graduation rate of 60% or less so no schools were added to either Tier I or Tier II because of this criteria.

All public schools that met the criteria for consideration for either Tier I or Tier II were considered. No school was excluded because of “n” size.

The rankings were based on the “score” for each school’s performance on the four required indicators: achievement of all students on math and reading and the progress of all students on math and reading as measured by our state assessment. We did not weigh any indicator but did a combined ranking for each Tier based on the four individual rankings.

To determine progress, we ranked the schools based on their change in proficiency. The smallest gain (or negative gain) was considered the least progress. We compared proficiency from the earliest possible NECAP year to proficiency on the 2008 NECAP.

For schools with a 9-12 grade span, this results in a two-year comparison. For other schools, it results in a four-year grade span.